



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**

Engineer Research and  
Development Center

# Electronic Bid Solicitations

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## Technology

In keeping with the increased emphasis in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in moving toward the paperless office, the Electronic Bid Solicitation (EBS) system makes possible the electronic transfer of contract bids and eliminates unnecessary reproduction and storage of printed material. Prospective bidders can view, search, download, and request project solicitation documents on the Web. The only requirements are a Windows-based PC, a CD-ROM drive, and an Internet browser. The CADD/GIS Technology Center for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment developed and maintains the EBS system and offers Web hosting support to government activities.

## Problem

The Federal government is one of the largest contracting agencies within the United States, yet the process of advertising and processing bids for services and goods can be time-consuming, cumbersome, and costly. These disadvantages discourage or even prevent some potential contractors from learning about and/or submitting bids. In addition, Department of Defense agencies are mandated to reduce or eliminate the need for costly printed media (i.e., design drawings, technical specifications, etc.). The EBS is a paperless means of making the procurement process for goods and services more readily available to prospective bidders and more efficient for government agencies.

## Benefits

The EBS system:

- Enables immediate access to information.
- Facilitates paperless contracting.
- Lowers administrative costs of engineering and construction procurement through reduction of printing and reproduction costs for plans and specifications.
- Encourages solicitations from prospective bidders.
- Enables faster processing the bids and contracts.
- Enables cost avoidance of about 80% versus issuing paper bid solicitations.

## Implementation Cost

The only requirements are a Windows-based PC, a CD-ROM drive, an Internet browser, and access to the Internet.

## Status

Recent functionality added to the EBS includes automated posting of solicitation information to the Army Single Face to Industry (ASFI) Web site. Users are now able to post all solicitations to a central database, which aids contractors considerably in their search for solicitations. The CADD/GIS Technology Center offers an EBS Web hosting service that allows installations the convenience of using the Center as their Internet Service Provider for EBS.

## Distribution Sources

The Tri-Service Solicitation Network at <http://tsn.wes.army.mil>.

## Available Documentation

"Electronic Bid Solicitations Management System (EBSMS) User's Guide." (pdf, <http://tsn.wes.army.mil/DownloadWebPages/Files/EBSMS.pdf>)

**Available Support**

The CADD/GIS Technology Center POC is Elias Arredondo at 601-634-3140 or e-mail [Elias.Arredondo@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:Elias.Arredondo@erdc.usace.army.mil).

**Point of Contact**

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